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VALLEY Star
LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE
Volume 50, Issue 17

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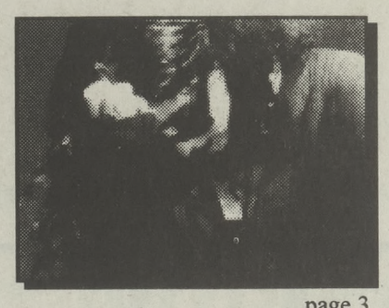

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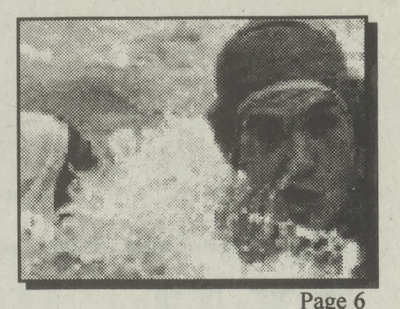

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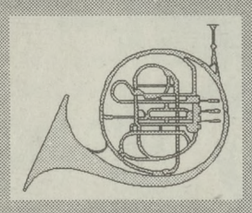
Thursday, October 2, 1997

CAMPUS SCENE



MUSIC ROOM 112

Campus Concert Series presents Bill Fulton Jazz Quartet. Oct. 2, 11a.m.

THEATER ARTS BUILDING

Valley collegiate players presents "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" runs Oct. 2 - 4, 8p.m. Horse Shoe Theater.

MONARCH STADIUM

Valley Football: Valley vs Bakersfield Oct. 4, 7p.m.

STUDENT HEALTH CLINIC

HIV testing Oct 7, 9a.m. - 1p.m. and Oct 8, 4p.m. - 7p.m.

TRANSFER CENTER

USC representatives will meet students by appointment only Oct. 9, 9a.m. - 12 and 1p.m. - 3p.m.

POLICE WATCH

On Sept. 25, during the day a car was burglarized in Lot G. A car radio was stolen. Later that evening another car was burglarized along Campus Center Drive.

On Sept. 26, in the late afternoon someone attempted to break into a car in Lot G.

The Campus Police suggest that students lock their cars and roll up their window. They also advise students not to leave anything valuable in their car, in plain view.

Information is provided by the Campus Police.

Students Suggest Air Repairs

■ **Campus Facilities:** Students find creative ways to beat the heat.

By NANCY BARAHONA
STAR REPORTER

Some students and teachers are bringing fans, opening classroom windows and hoping EL Nino generates cooler temperatures this fall. Many say the heat in the classrooms is unbearable.

There is air conditioning in the classrooms at Valley but it does not work.

Contractors have been hired to install new air conditioning in the classrooms but that has been put on hold.

Vice President Mary Ann Breckell said, "In the past three years funding has not been available for the air conditioning until the bond issue was approved. The bond provides two-thirds of the funding; however one-third is still needed.

The bond, Proposition BB, authorized the Los Angeles Unified School District to issue $2.4 billion in obligation funds to improve 15,000 classrooms at more than 800 school sites. The bond was passed in November 1996.

Breckell said for the past several years Valley has been submitting applications to the state requesting air conditioning be installed.

"My hope is that the air conditioning will be installed before next May," said Breckell.

Whether or not the current budget is affecting the installation of the air conditioning has not been made clear.

The temperatures in the classrooms are steady rising and it is affecting more than just the students.

Instructional Assistant Lyn Robinson said, "The computers are heat sensitive. Our file server crashed a couple of times due to the excessive heat and we had to close the lab."

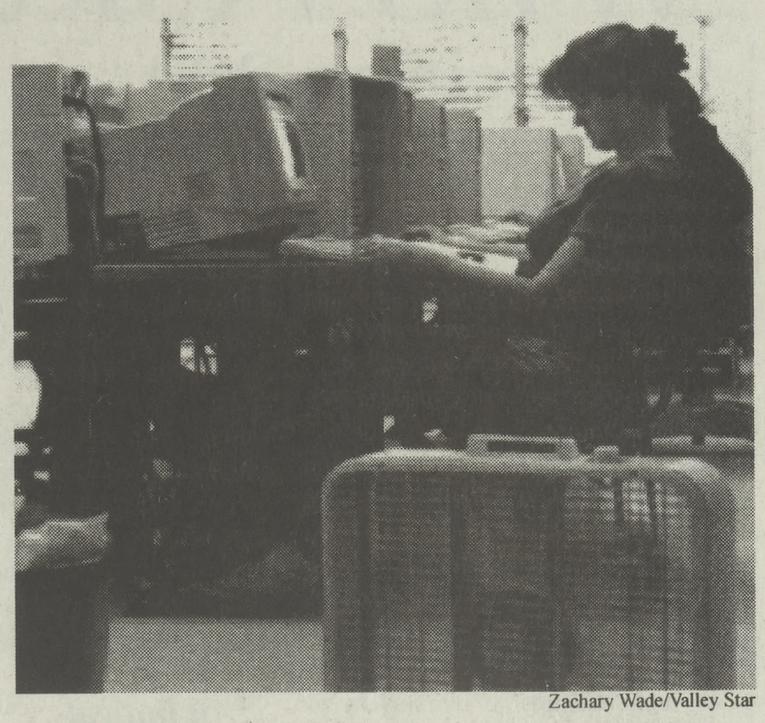
The lack of air conditioning affects the coolers in the Bookstore and the Coffee House. The sodas do not get as cold, and the ice-maker over heats said Adriana Masqueda , cashier at Valley Coffee House.

"It is such an inconvenience. The classrooms are hot so everyone is trying to get something to drink at once and the machines break," said Valley College student Meza Gonzales.

The delay in the installation of the new air conditioning in the classrooms is temporary. If there are any teachers having problems with the air conditioning in their classrooms they can call the Temperature Hot Line at extension 411.

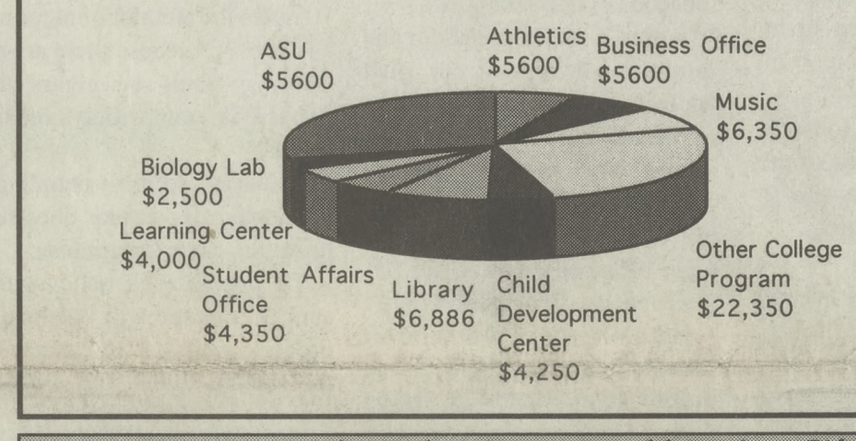
Teachers are to leave a message with their name, time and date of call and a brief description of the problem and its location. The hot line is checked about five times a day in order to control any temperature problems.

"I am not aware of any air conditioning that is not working," said Breckell. "Don't get me wrong that doesn't mean there aren't any, we fix what we know about."



Zachary Wade/Valley Star

Catherine Hendry, a computer student tries to keep cool in BJ 103.



Hey You! Check Out Valley's Clubs

Administration of Justice Club: Wednesdays at noon in CC 206.

American Indians Club: Foreign Languages 104 on Wednesdays at noon.

The Armenian Assn: alternate Tuesdays at 12.

Astronomy Club: Planetarium meets Sundays at 7 p.m.

Black Studies Club: Mondays at 1 p.m. or Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in Foreign Languages 112.

California Nursing Student Assn: every third Thursday of the month in the Engineering Building room 102.

The Choral Council: Music Building room 106.

Hillel: every Monday at 12 p.m. in Campus Center 200

The Jewish Students League: Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in Foreign Languages room 113.

Latinos for Higher Education: Tuesday and Wednesday at 6p.m. and Fridays at noon in Foreign Languages room 111.

The Filipino United Student Assn: Humanities 101 on Fridays at 12:30 p.m.

The Spirit Club: Men's Gym; the time and day are still unknown.

Tao Alpha Epsilon: Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in CC 200 or Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in CC 104.

ASU Splits Up the Buck

■ **Money:** Students get a lot for their $7 membership fee.

By LAURA REYNOLDS
and REBEKAH FOWLER
STAR REPORTERS

The Associated Student Union budget supports activities and programs from the library to football and then some.

The $7 membership fee entitles students to discounts in the cafeteria, at concerts and other campus events.

Only a portion of the ASU's money comes from students membership fees. The rest of the money comes from various other programs.

The ASU gave money to the library this semester to keep their weekend hours, which had been cut because of Valley's budget deficit.

The ASU's purpose is to meet the ever changing needs of the students by funding programs which need the extra money. The ASU gave money to the library this semester to keep their weekend hours which had been cut because of the deficit.

Library chairman David May said the ASU is funding the Saturday hours.

ASU president Lorenzo Trujillo said, "We are about student progress. The money is used to support students services on campus. We are not capable of solving everything but we can try."

The ASU is a student-run orginization which acts on behalf of the students.

"We are the voice for the students, not just on the district level but also at the state level," said Trujillo.

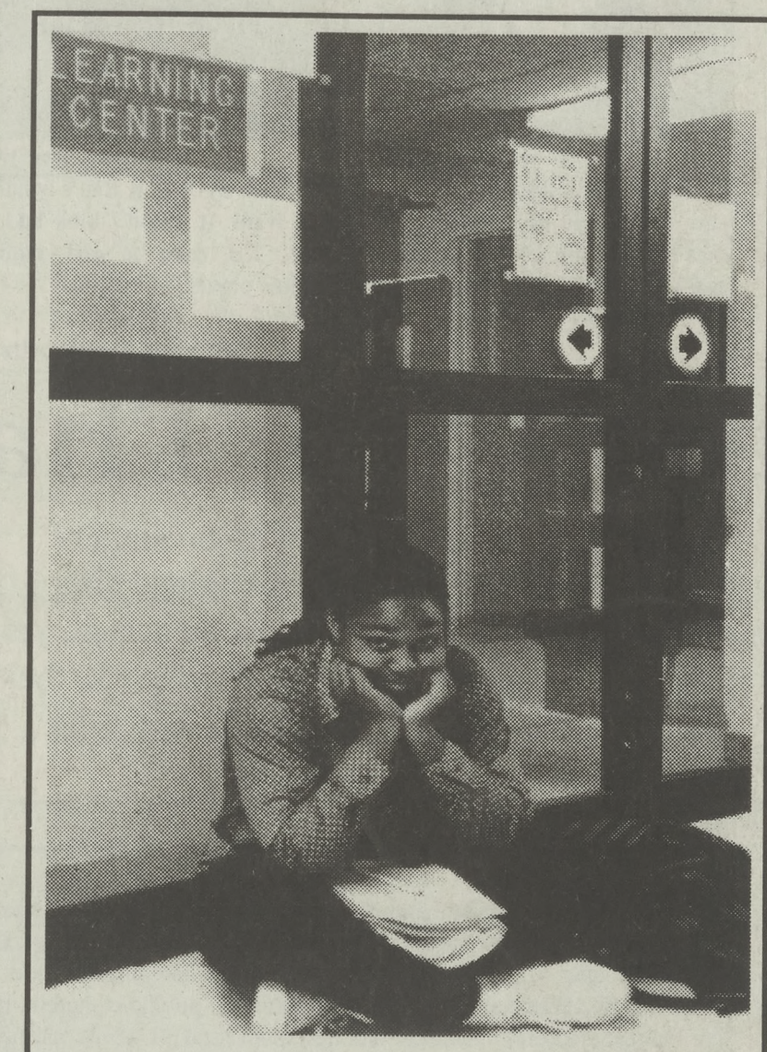
The $1 student rep fee is used to send ASU representatives to Sacramento.

Trujillo said, "the representatives go to Sacramento on behalf of the students to fight for student rights. This is one of the most important functions of the ASU."

ASU meets every Tuesday to discuss student issues.

The ASU wants the students to know that it is important for them to come to the meetings because this is where they discuss issues involving the students.

"If they are not participating then they worry about where the money goes. By attending the meetings they can find out more about the ASU, and how the money is spent. The students will know they are getting their money's worth." Trujillo said.



Zachary Wade/Valley Star

Nursing student Antolyn Thomas waits for the Learning Center to open. The Learning Center is located in the basement level of the Campus Center. SEE STORY PAGE 4

Police Make Narcotics Arrest; Grant High Student Hospitalized

■ **Drugs**: Student overdoses in cafeteria patio as police arrive to break up narcotic use.

By LINDA E. THOMAS
STAR REPORTER

A Grant High School student was arrested for narcotics possession and another Grant High student collapsed from apparent drug overdose on the Valley College campus Friday, police said.

At about 11 a.m. Sept. 26, a Grant High student was arrested for possession of narcotics at the Valley College cafeteria patio, Officer Bill Wigodsky of the Los Angeles Unified School District Police said.

A representative of Valley College had contacted Grant High officials and reported apparent drug use by several students in the cafeteria patio area, Wigodsky said.

"There were about 10 students from Grant High School detained for investigation," LAUSD Officer Shell Erlich said. "One student was arrested for possession of narcotics."

Police would not release names because the students are minors.

The student who was arrested was taken to the Van Nuys police station and booked, Wigodsky said.

"A second student collapsed at the scene," Erlich said. The student was administered first aid until the paramedics arrived and was taken by ambulance to a local hospital, he said,

"One student passed out apparently from an overdose of whatever drug he was using," Valley College Police Officer Frank Dallas, who was called to the scene, said.

"The kid passed out from an overdose," Ann Palmer of the Grant High principal's office said. The student has been released from the hospital, Palmer said.

Four of the students were cited for possession of tobacco by a minor, Erlich said. Other students were cited with juvenile loitering, Wigodsky said.

"Not all the students were cited," Wigodsky said. "The students that were not arrested were released to administration for handling and discipline."

The presence of Grant High students on the Valley College campus has been an ongoing problem, Wigodsky said.

"That's something that's being addressed constantly by both Grant High and Valley College," Wigodsky said. "This [Grant] is a closed campus. The gates are closed. We have roving supervision, but if a kid wants to jump the fence, they're going to do that."

The Los Angeles Police Department has stepped up its narcotics investigations in the Valley College area, Erlich said he was told recently.

"There has been a concentration of narcotics efforts by police in and around that whole area," Erlich said.

OPINION

Who Asked U?
Proposition 209

By LEO SMITH
STAR REPORTER

Yippee! Man alive. I haven't been this excited about democracy at work since I was allowed to waste my vote on Ross Perot.

Yes, it is official, the U.S. Supreme Court has, thankfully, struck down the whining arguments of Proposition 209 protesters. In their brief judicial statement, they said without saying that the letter of Proposition 209 was constitutional enough to avoid their scrutiny.

Finally, the eleventh hour, hail Mary, last ditch option of anti-democracy activists has failed them. God bless America!

So what does this mean for the future of such attempts to circumvent the will of the people? I seriously doubt it will do much to detract these idiots at all.

If there's one thing you can count on about zealots, sure, they may be one nut short of a scrotum, but they always manage to keep it up.

In the future, doofs of this kind will undoubtedly turn to their personal gurus; liberal Circuit Court judges.

A wise professor at this school once noted that we no longer live in a true Democracy, ours is a "Justocracy."

An individual's vote should, theoretically, count as much as any other's in a democracy. However, thanks to special interest groups and megalomaniacal judges, the expressed will of 10 million voters can be subverted by one power hungry fanatic in a black robe.

Of course, I am not suggesting that judges are the problem, they exist to save the people from themselves. To this end, they are granted veto powers that prevent the majority from playing "kick-the-minority." Still, just because a leftist judge can smell the Republican on a bill doesn't automatically qualify it for dismissal.

In cases where voters have approved a proposition, a bill should require a majority of judges to temporarily declare it unconstitutional, just like the Supreme Court.

Lone judicial fanatics corrupt the spirit of the law and inspire apathy and cynicism in the public. A spiritual lamaise can be a dangerous thing in a democracy.

OK, that is one way zealots will continue to thrive, but there is another insidious avenue open to them; making law instead of protesting propositions.

"An individual's vote should, theoretically, count as much as any other's in a democracy"

The most disgusting recent attempt along these lines is the proposal to abolish SAT's as a college entrance requirement.

Proposals such as this imply that the children they are designed to help are too dumb to get into college, and for the most part, they are.

I work with kids, I can say that.

Instead of lowering the standards for students by the time they are ready to go on to college, raise the standards for elementary education and proactively treat the disease.

Politicians are scrambling to remedy the mistakes they made in lowering the standards to make all children feel intelligent since many believed self esteem was much more important than competence.

This generation has been sacrificed at the altar of bureaucratic incompetence. Only a few of the very brightest will escape in a very harsh Darwinian example of survival of the fittest.

So anyway, yea for 209.

The Truth Hurts:
Ladies and Cigar Smoking

By DEEANNE McCLAIN
STAR REPORTER

A new fad has hit the scene.

Cigars have been in male society for hundreds of years.

A good Cuban cigar with a glass of brandy has always been a well known predilection among men.

But now women have jumped into the rising statistics of fine tobacco connoisseurs.

Is this a step forward for the feminist movement or just another nasty habit?

Ladies everywhere have joined men in cigar houses. Even a star like Demi Moore has been seen relaxing with a cigar balanced between her fingers and she looks cool.

But Demi looks cool no matter what she does. She can even make being bald in Navy fatigues look good.

So putting Demi aside, what kind of ramifications does this new fad have?

Is this just like when women started smoking cigarettes and everyone was shocked, only to say later that, "We've come a long way, baby?"

This fad has the potential to kill. Doesn't anyone realize that even though radio talk show host "Cigar Dave," says that 95 percent of cigar smokers do not inhale, cigars and cigar smoke contain suprisingly high amounts of carcinogens?

According to the American Cancer Society, a cigar can contain 30 times the carbon monoxide of one cigarette and almost 70 times the amount of nicotine.

However, because there are no warning labels on cigars the danger is not widely recognized.

Just because most people do not inhale the smoke does not mean the cigar is harmless.

Dr. Joe Zibrack believes the slick 90s image will eventually produce a big rise in cancers of the mouth, throat and esophagus.

"It will be unfortunate if we have to go through the same amount of suffering and misery to develop controls on cigars as effective as the controls we developed on cigarettes." Zibrack said.

Cigar sales actually increased by 20 percent last year while cigarettes had virtually no increase. There are already 10 million cigar smokers in the United States according to the American Cancer Society.

What is it that women feel they are gaining by adding themselves to the growing list of cigar connoisseurs? Independence? A beneficence for feminism?

The only thing that seems to be gained in the community is a growing number of citizens who have to endure the stench.

Like cigarettes, cigars seem to have become glamorous. What is glamorous about smelling and tasting like tobacco? What is feminine about it?

It sure would be better if the whole health fad had stuck.

It seems like a woman slurping on a smoothie rather than a rolled up bunch of tobacco would be more attractive.

We may have come a long way, but not in health. If women keep up this kind of growing, we'll all be dead. Yeh, we've come a long way baby.

What's Your Opinion?

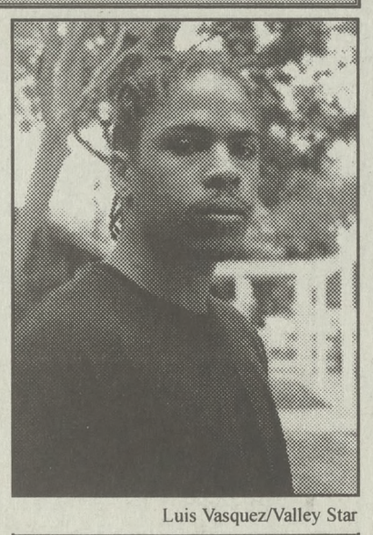
The Valley Star would love to receive and, if possible, publish your letters. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number.

Letters may be left with the Valley Star at BJ 114 by Friday morning for the followingThursday. Also, look for our mailboxes attached to three of our yellow news stands, or E-mail to Wordmker @ aol.com.

Should Ladies Smoke Cigars?

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"I just think they're doing it to keep up with the message that they're (tobacco companies) sending to people who are really into being trendy."
Maria Elena Miranda

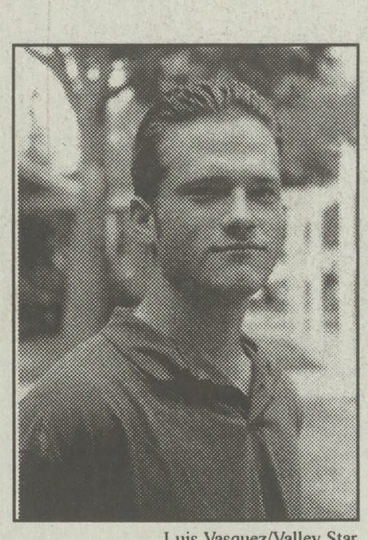


Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"I think that's raunchy because it's not lady like for females to be smoking cigars. How's it going to look, a woman with a big stanky cigar hanging out of her mouth?" **Deon Lopez**

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"I think it's stupid because I'm sure everybody knows the risk that comes with it. Why take the risk just to be trendy?"
Susan Tadros



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"It's fine by me, it that's what they want. It doesn't look bad. Sure, I'd date a girl who smokes cigars."
Benjamin Herskowitz

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"First of all, cigarettes is bad enough, especially for women. When they smoke a cigar it's worse because it stinks and it just looks nasty in anybody's mouth." **Enriqueta Cano**

What Is The Deal With That?

❖Why does a boy's bicycle have a bar and a girls bike doesn't?

❖Why is Filipino spelled with an "F" and Philippines spelled with a "Ph?"

❖Why do the new BMW's have windshield wipers on their headlights?

❖Why is the first thing the psychics ask on the psychic hot line your date of birth? Shouldn't they know?

❖Why do singers from England sing without an accent, yet when they speak, their accent is very thick?

If you'd like to send in things that make you say, "Hmmm," please include your name and drop it in one of our new mailboxes located on three of our newsstands.

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Editorial: *$how Us the Money!*

The Budget Committee's strategy of cutting funds slashed right at the jugular of the college; its students

So far, all the obvious action in reducing Valley's expenditures have cut programs which are student-related.

Money seems to be the root of every problem. Why is it always about the money?

Affordable education is the answer. Demanding changes in educational funding at the state level is the solution.

What about Valley's predicament? The students need to rally together and demand that department chairpersons fight for the classes which are being canceled, or at least demand replacement courses.

Talk about a catch 22. More students are needed in order to generate additional funds for Valley but the current budget cuts have affected student enrollment.

Students, faculty and administration have expressed dissatisfaction with Valley President Tyree Wieder. Yet she is only doing what she was told to do, squeeze $3.4 million out of Valley's budget. The LACCD should hang their heads in shame. The district received extra funding from the state for all of its colleges.

What happened to this extra funding?

The LACCD board decided to keep the money for themselves. They certainly did not pass the funds on to the nine colleges within their district. Instead, they provided the colleges with $10 million less than last year.

Students are taking the budget-cutting strategy as a personal attack aimed at shortening student programs. Why?

The fall semester began on a downward slope. Signs posted on classroom doors and student service areas proclaimed: "Class canceled! Hours cut!" All in the name of cutting back expenditures.

No wonder students are upset. All the visible cuts involve student classes and programs. It is tough enough to afford a college education. Students should not have to worry about the financial woes of their educational institution.

The way the programs are designed, students are expenditures. To solve the budget deficit, many classes with less than 15 students enrolled were cut. This seems to be self-defeating because of all the additional enrollments that come during the first two weeks of school.

Valley College cannot exist without its students. Students can exist without Valley College. There are other colleges which can meet their needs, however,students choose to attend Valley.

It is plain and simple. Valley should choose to meet the needs of its students, not eliminate programs which directly affect them.

According to Valley's Mission Statement, the college is to provide educational programs and services, emphasizing: critical thinking, cultural awareness, intellectual development, physical well-being, self-direction and social responsibility in an attractive and accessible learning environment.

Were these promises made on the basis of financial backing?

Maybe not, but it sure seems like it. Find other areas to save money. Start cutting from the top, not the bottom.

The colleges' cost, because of negotiated salary increases, will be $10 million more than in 1996-97. If there is money to increase salaries, and California's economy is growing, why are funds being cut?

Students are told only that the budget cuts are across the board. Actions speak louder than words.

MARIJUANA MAN Speaks at Valley College

■ Speaker and subject of DEA investigation enlightens students and faculty on the history of marijuana prohibition.

By ANGELA LUSSIER
Star Reporter

At the invitation of the Valley Star, Todd McCormick, the man arrested for growing marijuana at his Bel-Air mansion came to speak at Valley College last Wednesday.

The fact that his visit was approved by the college administration shows that they understand the true purpose of higher education: the exchange of new ideas while learning; and re-evaluating old ones.

Those who did not hear Todd speak, may have been surprised. He was not the typical marijuana dealer as the television news media portrayed him.

Maria Ivey/Valley Star

Todd McCormick Speaks to faculty and Students.

He spoke about his use of cannabis, the original word for marijuana, starting at age nine for terminal cancer. He had been given six months to live. He said that when he used it he felt better immediately, he could keep food down, and his color came back.

Unfortunately, he and his mother could not share this treatment with other cancer stricken families for fear of separation.

He also talked about his determination to study the real effects of cannabis as opposed to the propaganda handed out in the 1940's by the liquor industry (by way of "Reefer Madness") and the petro- chemical companies (as competition for fuel).

One of the things I found most interesting was the way he said the word marijuana found its way into the vocabulary of Americans. Before the Harrison Act of 1937, the criminalization of marijuana, cannabis was widely used as cloth, paper, medicine and more.

According to McCormick, Betsy Ross sewed on hemp, and the first draft of the Constitution was written on hemp. Research into the many uses of cannabis was going on - remember, we were becoming more comfortable with the industrial revolution.

When greedy corporations got wind of the quality of competition they were in for, not to mention the liquor industry, since the popularity of smoking cannabis was increasing, they got together and lobbied for the prohibition of "marijuana" and that's where the word was first used.

Had it been common knowledge that the horrible and dangerous weed the proponents of the Harrison act were speaking about was cannabis, there would have been a public outcry to vote the measure down.

McCormick said, "The medical community began to catch on only two months before the act was voted on. They pleaded with policy makers to abandon this idea, as it would serve as a terrible injustice to the sick, especially the children and the elderly, due to it's non-addictive qualities."

McCormick, like many, is calling for the end of marijuana prohibition. He asked that those students who agree with him, to help by doing research themselves, and being as vocal as possible about the issue. He cited that both the president and vice president of this country smoked marijuana.

Personally, I think Bob Dylan has smoked a few joints himself, and now he has had an audience with the Pope.

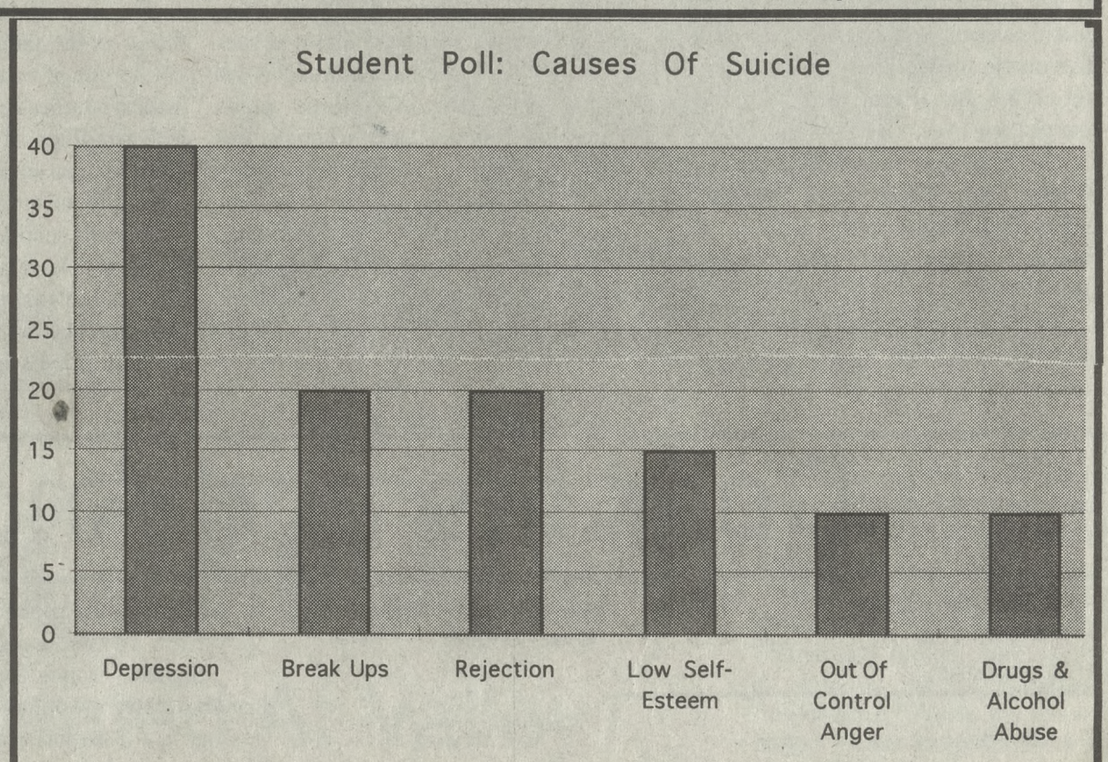
McCormick called the war on drugs a joke, "it's a war on us," he said, "a way to oppress some of the most affluent and/or highly intelligent, peaceful humans. The United States has always loved war."

As far as I'm concerned, add the word war to any issue and many Americans start foaming at the mouth. When will we start to think?

Let alone the political, legal, and medical implications, there is the issue of religious freedom. Rastafarians use cannabis in their pursuit of spiritual fulfillment and many Christians I know cite revelation as justification and validation for their use of the plant as well. Some even abstain from alcohol consumption based on the bible's stand on being "drunk on wine."

If you ask any intelligent, pot smoking, valuable member of society (of which there are millions) if they feel a spiritual connection to the universe when they partake, you'll get a resounding YES.

McCormick began compassion clubs in Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco. These clubs provide cannabis to thousands of sick people who have international prescriptions or some of the eight people involved in a U.S. government program who have been given national prescriptions.



Suicide... THE DEATH OF HOPE

By DEEANNE McCLAIN
Star Reporter

Suicide is the ninth leading cause of death in the United States.

Everyone has thought about how they would commit suicide if they had the nerve.

Fortunately, most of us do not have the nerve. Many of us have, like George Bailey in "It's A Wonderful Life," thought the world might be a better place without us. Most of us have probably been depressed at some time in our life, but have had the coping skills to ride it through or find someone to talk to.

But what about those who do have the nerve and are sure the world would be better off without them? What about the people who don't know where to turn and feel that they just can't ride it through?

According to the National Institution of Mental Health, suicide accounts for 1.4 percent of total deaths. More men die by suicide than women by a ratio of about four to one, with 72 percent being white men. Women attempt suicide more than men with a ratio of about two to one.

Suicide has traditionally been a taboo topic in Western society, which has only perpetuated the problem by keeping those who feel alone more alienated. The fact that it is considered a sin and is against the law only makes it more difficult for those who feel suicidal to approach someone and ask for help.

Attempts at suicide and suicidal thoughts or feelings are usually a cry or help. Since dealing with suicidal thoughts on our own can be extremely difficult, we need to attempt to raise awareness about suicide, so that we may be better able to recognize and help other people in crisis and also to find how to seek help or make better choices ourselves.

Psychologist David Sommers said the best thing to do if you are feeling suicidal is first realize that you are not crazy or necessarily mentally ill. People who are feeling suicidal are just feeling isolated, desperately unhappy and alone.

The next and most important thing to do is talk to someone Sommers said, "Call a relative or friend. Call a suicide hotline. Just keep trying until you find someone who will listen and simply tell them how you feel."

Different services vary in what they offer, but in general you can call and speak anonymously to a counselor about any sort of problem in a no-pressure context.

Kathy Lustig/Valley Star

Hotlines usually have connections with local services to refer you if further help is required. You don't have to wait until the deepest point of crisis or until you have a life-threatening problem before you seek help.

What you can do if someone you know is feeling suicidal is first, take it seriously, according to David L. Conroy, Ph.D. Anyone expressing suicidal feelings needs immediate attention. Second, be willing to give help sooner rather than later. Listen. Listen. Listen. Avoid arguments and advice giving. Thirdly, ask if they are having feelings of suicide. By asking, you are showing that you take them seriously and that you are willing to let them share their pain with you.

If the person is acutely suicidal, do not leave them alone. Finally, urge them to seek professional help. Be persistent and patient. Let the person know you care and want to maintain contact.

We could go a long way toward reducing our suicide rate by accepting people as they are, removing the social taboo on talking about feeling suicidal and telling people that it is OK to feel bad and even to think about suicide.

We need to listen to each other and remember one thing. Suicide is a forever decision. You can't take it back.

Everyone in this world affects one another. Without one person in this world, others are affected permanently.

It may not always be easy, but *it is* a wonderful life.

Soul Food:

Get It While It's Hot!

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

Fried chicken, sweet cornbread, smoke-cooked ham and deep-dish peach cobbler from Mother Joe's table has been served across the nation.

"Soul Food" is a movie about the values of a modern Chicago family, based on writer/director George Tilman's own experiences.

The film involves the ups and downs of an African-American family with comic scenes and heartfelt messages. The movie won't make its viewers burst out crying, but it will certainly bring a tear to their eyes.

Most of the scenes take place at Mother Joe's house when the family gathers for dinner every Sunday. The matriarch of the family was played by Irma P. Hall.

Vanessa L. Williams, Vivica A. Fox and Nia Long play Mother Joe's three daughters: Teri, Maxine and Bird.

The phrase, "behind a strong man, there is a strong woman," is not true in the plot of this story.

Mother Joe's three daughters are very independent. Teri is a successful lawyer, Maxine is what she calls a "successful wife and mother," and Bird has just opened a beauty salon.

Although all three of them are successful, their husbands don't have as much luck.

Michael Beach plays Miles, Teri's husband. He is also a lawyer but not as successful as his wife, and his mind is set on music. Jeffrey D. Sams plays Maxine's husband, Kenny, who is intimidated by his wife. Mekhi Phifer plays Lem, Bird's husband, who is an ex-convict without a job.

In the movie, the family is very close until misunderstandings cause the family to separate from its roots.

Ahmad, played by Brandon Hammond, is Mother Joe's grandson who sets out to keep the family together during the crisis.

Ahmad shares a special bond with his grandma, or "Big Mamma," as he likes to refer to her.

The reason why things in the family got so out of control was because their leader, Mother Joe, was sick. The cherished tradition of Sunday dinner is broken and even some family members stop talking to each other.

Ahmad's secreted plans to keep up the tradition. He reminds everybody about Mother Joe's family motto: "One finger pointing blame can't make no impact, but five fingers balled up can deliver a mighty blow. This family has got to be that fist."

The funniest scene comes when the family reunites to keep the dinner tradition alive. Ahmad fulfilled his goal of helping "Big Mamma" by teaching "grown-ups" the true meaning of soul food.

Mother Joe, Maxine, Bird and Teri prepare soul food for their men. Courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

" One finger pointing blame can't make no impact, but five fingers balled up can deliver a mighty blow. This family has got to be that fist."

-Irma P. Hall, as Mother Joe

Dear Iris and Angie

By IRIS BROWN AND
ANGIE LUSSIER
STAR REPORTERS

Dear Iris & Angie:

I am a single, good looking, young, black, professional man. I am also a student at LAVC. I find it very difficult to meet women. I work a lot, but I do have time do date. I am very choosy about the women I want. How do I find quality women? It seems as if they are nowhere to be found. What do I do?

Signed,
Lonely Heart

Dear Lonely Heart:

Your situation is common, and the reason for it common as well. We all want what we want - NOW! It sounds to me like you make your mind up about a woman pretty quick, as either she has it or she doesn't. You can't find a quality woman that way. Stop categorizing the opposite sex into "would date" or "wouldn't date." Start opening up more to women as people. Establish friendships and then re-evaluate the "woulds" vs. the "would nots." I'll bet you anything they'll change. Don't rush things!

Love,
Angie

Looking For Fun

■ **Flyer parties:** Police officers get caught in between the community and partygoers.

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

Stop the music! Everybody go home!

The words most feared by party crews and most used by law enforcers on weekend nights.

Mixed reactions rise as a result of neighborhood weekend night events.

Partygoers feel they have the right to have fun, while neighborhood residents feel they have the right to enjoy a quiet evening. Meanwhile, police officers are stuck in between.

What is the result?

Police officers, in rare occasions, allow parties to run until midnight. Still, neither side is happy. Parties usually get stopped or raided by police officers as soon as they get a complaint.

Community members say police officers protect and serve them by acting right away.

But is it really necessary?

Partygoers say they attend these events in search of a night of fun. Those opposing their activities fear violence erupting from the night activities.

Partygoers say they have been stereotyped. They say they are being affected by "snappers," or troublemakers.

Community members say that if violence happens once, it could happen again.

"Parties shouldn't get raided," Jeff Jamison, Valley College student from Sun Valley, said. "Police officers shouldn't stop them as long as the party is peaceful."

Jamison saud snappers ruin it for everybody else. He said people in the community oppose the activities because they fear getting hurt. He also said that not everybody are snappers.

Campus Center Is A Place To Learn

By STEVE BELAND
STAR REPORTER

A valuable educational resource is available to students and faculty in the Campus Center.

This resource, the Learning Center, is located on the lower level of the Campus Center in room CC-1.

The center's goal is to provide a learning environment for the optimum use of self-paced, individualized instructional media, it is supplemental to classroom instruction or for required assignments within a course of study. Also, it is for one-to-one contact with instructors or student tutors.

Students may access audio and video tapes, programmed books and tutorial computer software at the center. Thousands of instructional media programs are also available across a wide range of subjects and student levels.

Free tutoring, primarily in groups, is available for all students in math. Students requiring tutoring in other subjects should obtain a request form at the center for instructors to sign.

Instructors are encouraged to visit the center to familiarize themselves with its offerings so they can recommend or assign self-instructional materials to their students. They may also leave their own media materials for students to use on a temporary reserve basis. A student assessment program is also available to instructors.

Use of the center's equipment is limited to software in its collection or on instructor reserve. Students may copy most of the center's audio tapes with its cassette duplicator. Speech lab tapes and others are not available for copying, but they may be reviewed by students.

Two rooms are designated for support services for eligible students with physical or learning disabilities. Services include reading, writing and test taking on an individual basis.

Credit courses taught include education, English, Speech and developmental communications.

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Two Oxnard Elementary School students dance to folkloric music as part of Latin Heritage Month celebration at Los Angeles Valley College.

CELEBRACION

Latin Heritage Month Celebrated At Valley

Mexico's Independence Day, Sept. 16, marked the beginning of Latin Heritage Month at Valley College.

The festivities began Sept. 17 with children from the Oxnard Elementary School performing a variety of "Danzas Folkloricas." When the music began, and Monarch square was transformed into a stage for these young performers. Valley College students danced to the Latin beat while the children swirled colorful costumes.

Once the dancing stopped, the revelry continued with the breaking of the "pinata." Around and around each blind folded child was twirled, eager to break the "pinata." The reward; as much candy they were able to pick up.

A drum was played loud as an Aztec dancer blessed Monarch square. Once this process was completed, students were treated to the sounds and dancing of the Aztecs.

However, the celebration did not stop with that one day. Mariachis and the musical group, El Conjunto Hueyapan performed Sept. 24 and the celebration will continue with the theater department performing two plays, breaking a "pinata," and vendors on Oct. 8.

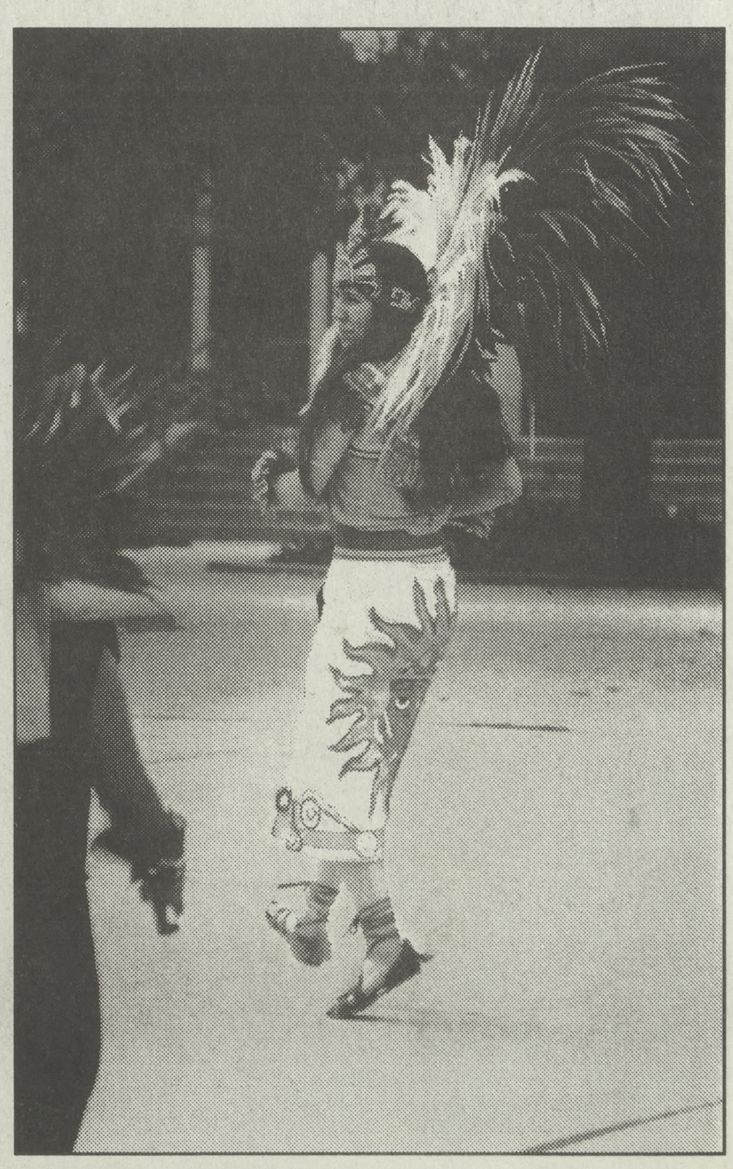
ABOVE: A young spectator swings from right to left as she is captivated by the music the Mariachis played.

ABOVE RIGHT: El Conjunto Hueyapan played a favorite tune, "La Bamba."

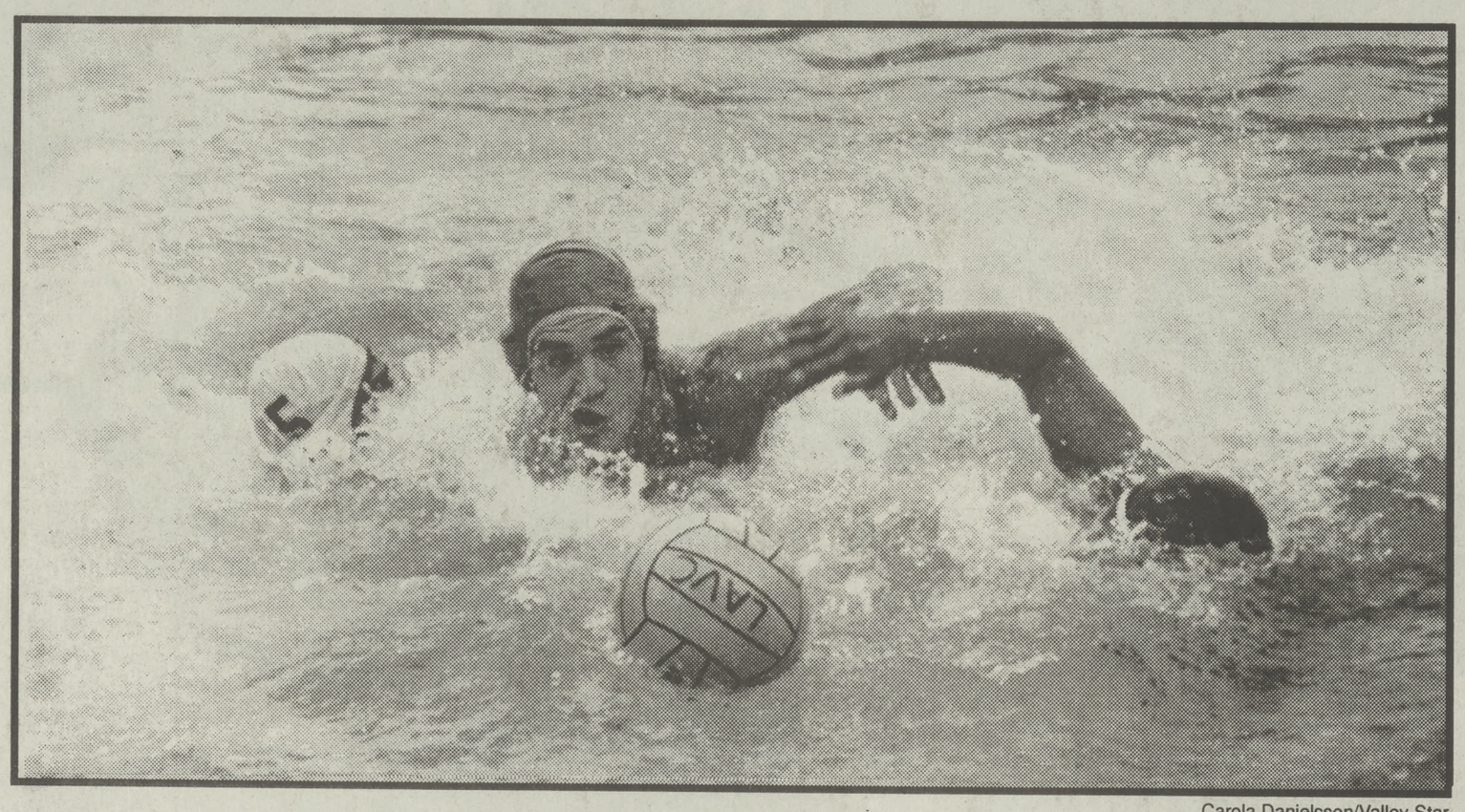
FAR RIGHT: Rosie Galvan and Cecilia Ayala two members of Nahui Ollin Aztec Dancers group, performe a traditional dance dedicated to the 'four winds'.

RIGHT: An Oxnard Elementary School student is blind folded and swirled by Otto Sturcke, a Valley student, before she is allowed to hit the 'pinata'.

Text and photos by Maria D. Ivey



Men's Water Polo Team Has a Successful Week



Carola Danielsson/Valley Star

Men's water polo team member Mike Scarcelli fights for the ball in the September 24 win against Rio Hondo.

■ **Results:** Valley College beats conference rival Rio Hondo on September 24, followed by a first place finish for the Monarchs in the Cypress Tournament on September 27.

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

The Monarch men's water polo team named themselves Cypress Tournament champions after beating Riverside 12-10 Sept. 27.

Valley College managed to hold on to the victory by two points after leading Riverside 9-4 in the first half of the championship game.

"Rio Hondo had a really good second half," Valley College Coach Bill Krauss said.

The win gave the Monarchs their first tournament title of the season. In the tournament, Valley College beat Cypress and Cerritos 12-7 and 18-9, respectively.

Jon Conrad and Jason Payne led the team into the championship title by scoring 10 goals each. Peter Driscoll had a total of 21 saves for the Monarchs.

Valley College was scheduled to play on Sept. 25 against Cerritos. Instead of playing, a misunderstanding with their opponents' schedule gave the Monarchs one more day of practice.

The Monarchs also played against Rio Hondo on Sept. 24. The host Monarchs were victorious with a score of 22-14, giving them a 1-1 record in the Western State Conference.
Overall, the team is 10-4.

The team will travel to Citrus to participate in the Citrus Tournament on Oct. 3 and 4. Coach Krauss said he is very optimistic about the Monarchs' upcoming schedule, which also includes Santa Monica.

"We play the 'big boys' in that tournament," Coach Krauss said.

Women's Water Polo Wins First Conference Game

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

The Valley College women's water polo team beat Rio Hondo 16-9 in their first conference game.

The Monarchs were led by Stephanie Hammer and Lianna Kishimoto, who scored five and four goals respectively.

Valley College goalie Melissa Minkey helped the Monarchs by scoring. She added four points with two goals from her net, a feat uncommon among goalies. Minkey has a total of five goals this season for Valley. She also led the team into victory with 12 saves.

"The team is better than expected," Wonneen Jun, coach of the women's team said. "It's been a pleasant surprise."

Hammer, who is the team's top scorer, said that the team played well against Rio Hondo.

Hammer's five goals were not a surprise said Coach Jun, due to the fact that she averages five goals a game.

With the Monarchs win, the team's overall record is 5-5.

"We're getting stronger," Kishimoto said. "We're going into games with our heads a lot higher and with a lot of pride."

Senior Olympics Lives Up to Its Name

By BEN ALTER
STAR REPORTER

The 1997 Senior Olympics, a gymnastics event, lived up to its title as some of the seniors out performed their younger counterparts.

The event is for gymnasts from the age of 20 and up, with age groups being in intervals of 5 years.

The first event of the evening was the rope climb In the men's section, the best overall score came from Kim Goodwin in the 45-49 age group. He climbed the 20 foot rope in 4.4 seconds.

"When I started coming here a couple years ago, I was excited that I could climb the rope three consecutive times," Goodwin said. "Then I saw guys in their sixties doing it 10 times, and I knew I had to start working harder.

The second best overall score for the men was put in by Sanford Werner, who at the age of 66, was able to climb the rope in five seconds.

The winner of the women's section was Bonnie Burrow, competing in the 45-49 age group.

Burrow finished the climb with a time of 8.7 seconds.

Lisa Greenstadt, a 64 year old woman with Parkinsons disease completed the rope climb with a time of 30.81.

Some of the other events in the event included the floor exercise, vaulting, rings, the parallel bars and the uneven bars.

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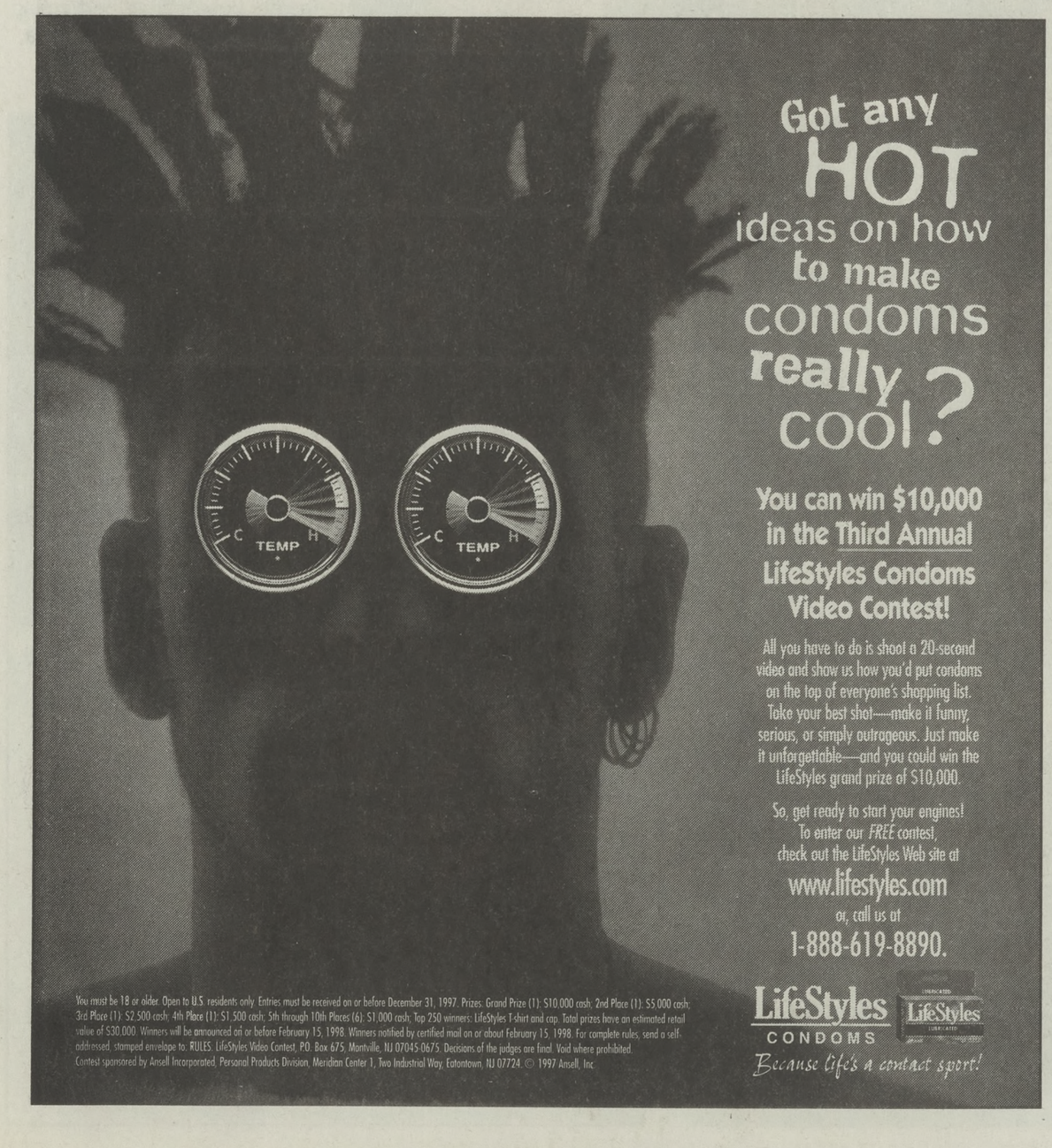

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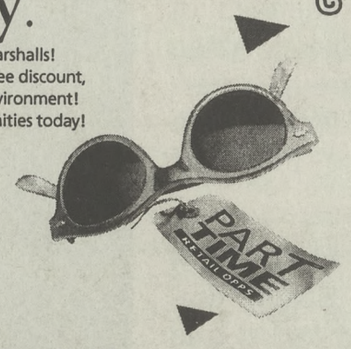

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